TENANT RESOURCE CENTER

Guide to Searching for Housing Online

Craigslist

Craigslist is the most popular website in the United States for finding housing. On this website, landlords can advertise their apartments for free and people can search for ads when they need housing. Users then contact each other by e-mail or phone. When using craigslist, it is very important to avoid scams, but these are easy to avoid as long as you know a few basic rules.

To find housing on Craigslist:

1. Get to a computer with internet and go to **www.madison.craigslist.org**
2. Find the header that says "Housing" and click on the link underneath that called "apts/housing". This will take you to a list of apartments that are available to rent.
3. In the search bar at the top, you can search for what you are looking for. For example, you could search "1-bedroom apartment" to find what is available in your area.
4. On the left side of the screen, there are more options for you to make sure you are only seeing the apartments that are appropriate for you. You can choose what zip code you would like to live in, a price range that you can afford, the number of bedrooms and bathrooms you need, the date you are available to move in, whether or not you have pets, and whether or not you want a furnished apartment. You do not have to fill this whole section out, but it might help you narrow down your search.

To Avoid Scams:

- Do not make payments to anyone you have not met in person. If a person says they are not able to meet in person, it is likely a scam.
- Never wire funds to anybody
- Never give out information like your social security number or bank account number through email or over the phone. If a landlord wants your social security number (know that you always have the right to give your ITIN number instead), go to their office and put it directly onto the application. If they ask for your bank account number, you can ask if they will take a recent bank statement instead. This should also be done in person.
- If a landlord sends you a vague email and will not give you specific information about the unit you are hoping to rent, it is likely a scam.
- If the landlord immediately tells you that you are "guaranteed" the apartment without getting any information from you or giving you a lease, it is likely a scam.
- If something does not feel right to you, do not send money or give personal information until you get a second opinion from a person or organization you trust.

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Other Housing Websites

Many other websites have information on available apartments in the Madison area.

Instructions:

- To get started, go to one of the websites listed below.
- Once you are on the homepage, you will be asked to enter information such as the city, zip code, number of bedrooms, number of bathrooms, and desired price range for your future apartment.
- You will then be given a list of apartments that fit your need, and often a map that shows you where the apartments are located.
- Once you find an apartment you like, you will be given multiple ways to contact the landlord. You can either call them, email them, or sometimes you will be able to send them a message through the website.
- Although it is always a good idea to be cautious with your personal and bank information, the websites listed below are less likely to have scams, as most websites only allow verified landlords to post on their website.

Websites with Madison apartment listings:

- Adobo Apartments | www.adobo.com
- Apartment Finder | www.apartmentfinder.com
- Apartment Guide | www.apartmentguide.com
- Apartments.com | www.apartments.com
- Apartment List | apartmentlist.com
- Campus and Downtown | www.madisoncampusanddowntownapartments.com
- Campus Area Housing | www.campusareahousing.wisc.edu
- Madison Apartment Living | www.madisonapartmentliving.com
- Pad Mapper | www.padmapper.com
- Startrenting.com | www.startrenting.com
- Trulia | www.trulia.com
- WIHousingSearch.org | www.wihousingsearch.org
- Zillow | www.zillow.com
- Zumper.com | www.zumper.com